

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 037980

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 037980 ACTION ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
CAPE TOWN 17 FEBRUARY 76.

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 037980

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

FOLLOWING REPEAT LAGOS 01889 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON
PARIS MOSCOW DOUALA KADUNA IBADAN 14 FEBRUARY 76.

QUOTE

UNCLAS LAGOS 1889

DEPT PLEASE RPPEAT ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AND CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY IMMEDIATE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINS NI

SUBJ: GEN. OBASANJO'S BROADCAST TO NATION

1. LT GENERAL O. OBASANJ INEW HEAD OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES IN NATIONWIDE
RADIO AND TV BROADCAST THIS EVENING AT 2100 HRS LOCAL PROMISED A
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CONTINUATION OF THE POLICIES OF HIS PREDECESSOR.

2. IN SHORT EFFECTIVE SPEECH, HE GAVE DETAILS OF THE DEATH OF GEN MOHAMMED, HIS AIDE, ORDERLY AND DRIVER. HE ALSO REVEALED THE DEATH OF THE GOVERNOR OF KWARA STATE COL. IBRIHAM TAIWO WHOSE BODY WAS FOUND IN GRAVE NEAR ILORIN. A THIRD CASUALTY WAS A COL. DIMUDJA KILLEOSIN ANOTHER AREA OF LAGOS.

3. OBASANJO ANNOUNCED THERE HAD BEEN MANY ARRESTS AND THE FMG HAD ESTABLISHED A MILITARY BOARD OF INQUIRY TO CONDUCT A FULL SCALE INVESTIGATION. CALLING ON PEOPLE NOT TO TAKE LAW INTO OWN HANDS HE PROMISED JUSTICE WOULD BE DONE AND THAT FMG HAD MADE FIRM DECISION TO SUMMARRILY DEAL IN EULITARY WAY WITH THOSE FOUND GUILTY.

4. CALLED ON "AGAINST MY PERSONAL WISHES AND DESIRES" TO SERVE AS HEAD OF STATE HE PROMISED THAT ALL POLICIES OF FMG WOULD CONTINUE AS BEFORE, "WE ARE STRONGLY COMMITTED TO ALL THAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING".

5. THE SITUATION WAS UNDER CONTROL HE SAID BECAUSE OF THE LOYALTY OF THE ARMED FORCES AND POLICE, HE HAD RECEIVED PUBLIC SUPPORT FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. FRIDAY, FEB 20, WOULD BE PUBLIC HOLIDAY AND A DAY OF PUBLIC MOURNING FOR THE LATE HEAD OF STATE. HE FINISHED BY APPEALING FOR CALM AND ASKING HE PUBLIC O AVOID ANY ACTION THAT WOULD LEAD TO A BREACH OF THE PEACE. HE CALLED FOR ETERNAL VIGILANCE TO PRESERVE THE STABILITY OF THE NATION.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN THE FACT THAT HE DID NOT MENTION A LIFTING OF THE DUSK TO DAWN CURFEW, IT IS ASSUMED THAT IT CONTINUES AND FRONTIERS REMAIN CLOSED AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SUSPENDED. EASUM UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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